

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/633,969

Examiner

Faye Boosalis

Applicant(s)

LYONS ET AL.

Art Unit

2884

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to submission on 6 February 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,7,8 and 10-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Comment on Submissions

1. This communication is responsive to submissions 6 February 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-5, 7-8 and 10-21 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 1, the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a conversion device for use in an imaging system comprising: a luminescent glass or luminescent polymer scintillator material filling a plurality of scintillator channels.

The examiner notes that while it is known in the art for a conversion device for use in an imaging system comprising: a first perforated plate portion (1) forming a plurality of collimator channels separated by a plurality of thin collimator walls; a second perforated plate portion (2) forming a plurality of scintillator channels separated by a plurality of thin scintillator walls; reflective coating (24) applied to the inside scintillator surface of the plurality of thin scintillator walls; and a scintillator material filling the plurality of scintillator channels (20) (see for example Soluri et al. -US 6,734,430 -- at Figs. 1 and 3 and Abstract and col. 2, lines 57-67 and col. 3, lines 1-5 and col. 4, lines 13-39), the prior art does not suggest the scintillator filling material, used to fill the plurality of scintillator channels, consisting luminescent glass or luminescent polymer.

Regarding independent claim 15, the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a conversion device for use in an imaging system comprising: a luminescent glass or luminescent polymer scintillator material filling a plurality of scintillator channels.

The examiner notes that while it is known in the art for a conversion device for use in an imaging system comprising: a perforated plate (2) forming a plurality of scintillator channels separated by a plurality of thin scintillator walls; reflective coating (24) applied to the inside scintillator surface of the plurality of thin scintillator walls; and a scintillator material (20) filling the plurality of scintillator channels (see for example Soluri et al. –US 6,734,430 -- at Figs. 1 and 3 and Abstract and col. 2, lines 57-67 and col. 3, lines 1-5 and col. 4, lines 13-39), the prior art does not suggest the scintillator filling material, used to fill the plurality of scintillator channels, consisting luminescent glass or luminescent polymer.

Regarding independent claim 16, the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a method of manufacturing a conversion device for use in an imaging system comprising: a luminescent glass or luminescent polymer scintillator material filling a plurality of scintillator channels.

The examiner notes that while it is known in the art for a method of manufacturing a conversion device for use in an imaging system comprising: perforating a plate element (2) to form a plurality of scintillator channels separated by a plurality of thin scintillator walls; coating an inside surface of the plurality of scintillator walls with a reflective coating (24); and filling the plurality of scintillator channels with a scintillator material (20) (see for example Soluri et al. –US 6,734,430 -- at Figs. 1 and 3 and Abstract and col. 2, lines 57-67 and col. 3, lines 1-5 and col. 4, lines 13-39), the prior art does not suggest the scintillator filling material, used to fill the plurality of scintillator channels, consisting luminescent glass or luminescent polymer.

Regarding independent claim 21, the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a method of manufacturing a conversion device for use in an imaging system comprising: a luminescent glass or luminescent polymer scintillator material filling a plurality of scintillator channels.

The examiner notes that while it is known in the art for a method of manufacturing a conversion device for use in an imaging system comprising: scintillator material only partially fills the perforate plate element such that a scintillator function is generated by the scintillator material and a collimator function is generated by an unfilled portion (see for example Soluri et al. -US 6,734,430 -- at see Generally Figs. 1 and 3, the prior art does not suggest the scintillator filling material, used to partially fill the perforated plate element, consisting luminescent glass or luminescent polymer. The remaining claims are allowable based on their dependency.

Conclusion


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faye Polyzos whose telephone number is 571-272-2447. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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